

Plant Fact Sheet

PINEYWOODS DROPSEED

Sporobolus junceus (Beauv.)

Kunth

Plant Symbol = SPJU

Contributed By: USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center



From Hitchcock (1950)
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Uses

Forage: Pinewoods dropseed is grazed mostly by livestock and deer during the spring.

Status

Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant's current status, such as, state noxious status, and wetland indicator values.

Description

Grass Family (Poaceae). Pinewoods dropseed is a native, warm-season, perennial bunch grass. The height ranges from 2 to 3 feet. The leaf blade is primarily basal, less than 1/6 inch wide, and 8 to 15 inches long with a distinctive blue green color. A few hairs occur at the base and the upper blade rolls inward, resembling a long pine needle. The leaf

sheath is rounded and longer than the internodes. The seedhead has an open panicle that is bronze to purple in color and 4 to 6 inches long with branches in regular whorls around the stem. 1 to 3 seed stalks are produced from each bunch.

Distribution: For current distribution, please consult the Plant Profile page for this species on the PLANTS Web site.

Management

Studies in central Louisiana show that this grass makes up only one percent of plant composition and provides only 3 to 5 percent of the livestock diet on well-managed ranges. It increases, however, when more palatable associated grasses are grazed out. An abundance of this grass indicates a deteriorating range. It is not easily damaged by fire.

Establishment

It grows during the late winter and spring. Vegetative growth is generally completed when the seedheads appear in late April and May. It grows mostly in shaded areas and is adapted to fairly well-drained sandy loam soils. It seldom grows on wet or flooded sites.

Cultivars, Improved and Selected Materials (and area of origin)

Please contact your local NRCS Field Office.

Reference

Leithead, H.L., L.L. Yarlett, & T.N. Shiflett. 1976. 100 native forage grasses in 11 southern states. USDA SCS Agriculture Handbook No. 389, Washington, DC.

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For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>

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